

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502-0001

Dear President Obama:

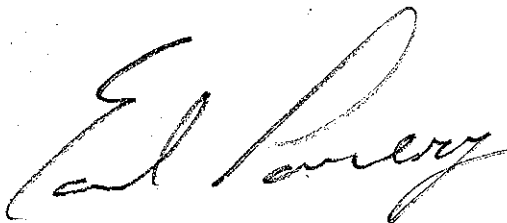
We write to support the request from the State of North Dakota to declare a major disaster for the State as a result of a severe spring storm that has impacted local communities and utility providers.

From April 1, 2010, to April 3, 2010, North Dakota experienced a severe spring storm that produced freezing rain, ice, and heavy wet snow. As a result of these adverse weather conditions, more than 9,000 power transmission structures have been damaged, which at one point left nearly 8,400 people without heat or electricity. Initial estimates indicate that the needed repairs to this infrastructure will cost more than \$33 million. Impacted counties include Adams, Benson, Burleigh, Grant, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux and Wells Counties as well as Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

While our local utility providers are mounting a massive effort to repair storm damages, estimates indicate that it will be four to six weeks before complete restoration of residential service. We also understand that the lack of power is placing a burden on many farmers and ranchers who are in the middle of calving season and are working tirelessly to prevent the loss of young livestock.

This storm has placed a great strain on the ability of the state, local, and tribal governments to respond and recover, and we urge you to quickly approve the State of North Dakota's request. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information you may find helpful in fulfilling this request.

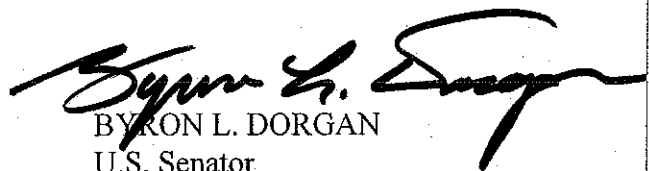
Sincerely,



EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress



KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senator



BYRON L. DORGAN
U.S. Senator